

FGDC Marine Boundary Working Group Meeting
Thursday, April 27, 2006
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
100 8th Ave SE
St Petersburg, FL

Minutes

- Highlights from last meeting Aug 9th (David Stein, NOAA)
 - Lee introduced the outer continental shelf mapping initiative.
 - Joel Murray spoke about the MPA Center's inventory.
 - Daniel Martin spoke about the possibilities of serving marine boundaries information via web services.
 - A draft version of the work plan was released.
 - A short handbook authors meeting followed – this was followed up by a two day meeting in November 2005.
 - A website exists at <http://www.csc.noaa.gov/mbwg>.
- FWRI boundary activities (Harry Norris, FWRI)
 - Florida is working on a project to map all state georegulations. This will be built on IMS and will allow for query by rule. They have found that about 20% of local (county level) regs. are “fuzzy at best.”
- Manatee Speed Zones and Digital Charts (Harry Norris)
 - There is a push by the boating public to put the Manatee Speed Zones on the ENC's. They are willing to help fund this effort. These Zones are seasonal in nature and change frequently. Nine counties have already defined these areas. OCS will most likely not place these in ENC's b/c of maintenance issues and the fact that they don't generally publish state and locally regulated areas. They suggest that Florida use ENC Direct and then add their own information before redistributing. Harry asked if USFWS manatee zones would make a difference. Meredith responded that regardless of jurisdiction, these zones could obscure other spatial phenomenon and that would be reason enough not to include them.
- Florida's Marine Cadastre (David Stage, FGDC Cadastral Subcommittee)
 - Florida has been working through a MMS grant to look at feasibility of using their marine grid in the near shore environment (can be viewed at www.nationalcad.org). DEP has been using this in Charlotte Harbor to map the areas within the state's SLA boundary. FWRI uses this primarily as a sampling grid. Department of Revenue will be using it as a cadastre. There are only 7 or 8 states that have a gridded marine cadastre (not on east coast). Next step is to develop a methodology to use the grid. A US

National Grid is also being developed for disaster response (based on MGRS) – could this be extended into marine lands? Apparently not, because it is not orthogonal and the cell sizes change.

- Maritime Boundaries Project (Meredith Westington, NOAA)
 - The 3 mile limit, EEZ, territorial limit boundaries have been published for lower 48, Hawaii, USVI, PR. These are available online.
 - Upcoming baseline meeting is coming up on June 25th.
 - A revised EEZ will be available shortly.
 - PR has a 9 mile territorial limit, but asserts 12.
 - TX 9 mile limit has been fixed by SLA. Several 2 mile jetties exist that were not included in SLA and therefore the 9 mile limit does not include them either.
- State Lateral Boundaries (Meredith Westington)
 - Many states don't know where their lateral boundaries lie. Many states use Census TIGER files. This holds true in Florida.
 - MMS has a list of these boundaries. Some are from Supreme Court actions, etc.
 - A request was made to place the digital version of this MMS document up on the MBWG Web site.
 - The FCC has a very real need to have the lateral boundaries of not just states, but also counties. An example of this is E911 response – if someone gets in trouble in the marine environment, who gets the response.
 - Section 4 of the OCSLA allows the president to determine the lateral seaward boundaries of each state. Existing lateral boundaries determined by MMS are administrative lines only.
 - How can the MBWG get the states to develop their lateral boundaries? Through secretaries of state? Governor's office? Harry stated that the GOMEX alliance is working on the boundary issue. Should this be done at the regional level? Currently, there is no way to fund state inclusion in the meetings – Lee suggested that some funding be identified to do this. NSGIC could also be a good vehicle to get state interest. Should be put a DHS spin on this?
 - If two states wanted to delimit their later boundaries, they could go to BLM (PLSS states) or just resolve it between themselves.
 - Would this be something to bring up at the SLMC?
- Baseline Committee (Ole Varmer, NOAA)
 - This committee deals with international law issues only
- FGDC news (Milo Robinson, FGDC)

- 1.2 M was given through grants by FGDC this year.
- There is a Fifty States Grants program which gives 50 K to each state (to increase intra State coordination)
- A Federal Geospatial Data profile has been developed which speaks to Web Services architecture.
- A Request for Information has been issued for the OMB's Geospatial Line of Business initiative. Federal agencies will be asked to respond.
- There is an "Imagery for the Nation" proposal that would provide 300M for nationwide orthophotography at 1 meter resolution for rural areas and 6 inch resolution for urban areas every three years. USGS would be responsible for the larger scale, USDA for the smaller scale. There is a question of funding. The question regarding tide controlled photography for the coastal region has been raised, but the reception has been lukewarm. There are other technical issues that need to be worked on.
- There was an issue raised at recent meeting regarding governance – it was noted that the NSDI spans a larger community than the Federal Govt. How does the FGDC bring in States, local govt, etc.
- Cindy asked if it would be worth it to submit a grant proposal to fund state travel to MBWG meetings.
- Submerged Lands Conference
 - Cindy wants to propose a separate state/federal mapping efforts session. Dave and Josh to follow up.
- Other Agency Updates
 - NGA – Global Shoreline – by the end of this week, the shoreline data may be on the Web. There are a lot of gaps due to clouds. It's nominally at a 1:50K scale. It is being hosted at the maritime division Web site (www.nga.mil). The tidal reference is MHW. EarthSat is believed to be the contractor. General Dynamics has a global marine boundaries dataset that it sells, but this hasn't received State's blessing.
 - USFWS – MMA update. It's been 4 years since they have compiled an inventory of coastal refuges that should be included in the MPA inventory (169 total). These are lands that USFWS owns or manages that touch tidal waters. Several refuges within the NW region have been omitted because they do not contain submerged lands per the MPA Exec. In other areas, they are looking at other methods to quantify submerged lands within refuges. Doug also talked about the proposed NWHI NMS and the issues between USFWS and NOAA.
- Multipurpose Marine Cadastre (Lee Thormahlen, MMS)
 - Implementation plan has been posted to MMS' Web site (<http://www.mms.gov/offshore-cadastre/procedures.htm>). A timeline has been developed as part of the plan to address implementation.

- Part of Energy Policy Act of 2005 (OCS Mapping Initiative).
- DOI has been conducting leases of offshore lands for past 50 years.
- The marine cadastre strives to be dynamic, flexible, corporate, able to adapt and evolve, and must be based on a grid system, in this case UTM.
- Composed of 5 layers: Air Column, Water Surface, Water Column, Seabed, Subsurface.
- Does the group wish to revisit the inventory that currently exists on the Web site? What needs to be added?
- Who is the contact within the USACE which oversees pipelines and cable activities?
- There was a discussion on how the MMS grid system should be implemented at the state level Florida is using a 100 – 1000 meter grid to map resources within its state limits. This does not extend to any other state jurisdiction.
- MBWG Work Plan Discussion (All)
 - Create a smaller working group to develop a work plan, then report back to the larger group for blessing. This group will work to flesh out the loose data inventory framework, identify any enhancements, determine host agency, etc.
 - USGS has 500K for a Marine Mapping Initiative, could this be used?
 - A straw man proposal was sent from NOAA CSC to NOAA HPCC. This was not funded, but could be used as a guide for the working group.
 - A staged inventory plan was proposed which would involve a pilot site that would demonstrate the required data format, documentation, etc. Once implemented, additional agencies would be involved
 - Every agency should understand their role in this effort, as participation is critical to the success of the inventory.
 - Three types of data: textual description, analog information (on a map), digital geospatial data.
 - An important step is the development of standards for data creation, and maintenance.
 - Proposed “Marine Cadastre Working Group” members include Doug Vandergraft (USFWS), David Stein (NOAA CSC), Meredith Westington (NOAA OCS), Bob Johnson- Lead (MMS), Andy LoSchiavo (NOAA NMFS), Don C. (FCC), Harry Norris (FWRI)
 - Who is missing? DOD, USACE, USCG, MPA Center
 - Harry mentioned that he was going to CSC next week to discuss the creation of a statewide marine cadastre and volunteered to have Florida be a pilot area for statewide implementation.

- A proposed late summer date was proposed to get the initiative off the ground. This would include a completed project concept, which would be reviewed by the larger MBWG at a later meeting.
- Submerged Lands Ownership and Leasing (Josh Murphy, NOAA)
 - TNC is working to identify mechanisms for conservation ownership and leasing opportunities.
 - The project pilot areas include Massachusetts and Oregon
- NMFS boundary issues (Andy LoSchiavo, NOAA)
 - NMFS develops marine boundaries based on the following management responsibilities: Magnuson Stevens Act, Marine Mammal Protection Act, Endangered Species Act, MPA Executive Order (13158)
 - Fisheries Management Closures are published in the Federal Register. A question was raised regarding whether this is the best way to effectively communicate this information to fishermen. This information is also available via the Fisheries Science Center Web sites.
 - While EFH mapping was performed through manual digitization of boundaries by local experts, the EFH for the Atlantic Fisheries Management Council was carried out using a 10 minute grid.
 - Dynamic Area Management Zones are used for temporal management
 - Some of the challenges that NMFS deals with are: they work as a decentralized agency, they work with 8 distinct fisheries management councils, they work with scientific information, they work with a large amount of fisheries rules and regulations.
- Co-Chair Transition Issues
 - Bob (MMS) has been asked and confirmed to be a co-chair.
- MBWG Handbook (David Stein.)
 - Handbook is in final editing.
 - Publishing will occur in mid-summer.
 - Cost per book will be \$7 per copy. The question was raised pertaining to the number of copies that should be published. 1500?
 - The same distribution list for Shalowitz should be used for the Handbook.
 - There should be some congressional briefings coordinated through NOAA Congressional Affairs.
 - Outreach to CSO, through their conferences (such as Submerged Lands Conference)? Maybe a booth at the CZM conference? GeoTools?
 - What about developing a CD for distribution with the book? This would have a training presentation.

Action Items

- Investigate whether MBWG should submit response to OMB Geospatial Line of Work
 - Propose separate session at International Submerged Lands Management Conference relating to State / Federal mapping efforts (state lateral boundary mapping issues, multipurpose marine cadastre, etc.) (*Dave Stein, Josh Murphy*)
 - Determine contact within USACE who oversees cable and pipeline permitting and issues. Also, determine contact who can be added into Cadastral Working Group
 - Revisit data inventory on MBWG Web site; determine plan for updating information, links, etc. (*Dave Stein, Josh Murphy*)
 - By the end of the summer (October 1), develop a project concept for the implementation of the Marine Mapping Initiative (*Marine Cadastre Working Group*)
 - Develop larger inventory of data types / needs, building from Lee T's existing list (*Marine Cadastre Working Group*)
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Agenda

8:30 Continental breakfast

9:00 Welcome and introductions – Cindy and Lee

- Review agenda
- Highlights from last meeting

9:15 Topics from Agencies and Committees

- FWRI boundary activities – Harry Norris
- Manatee speed zones and digital charts – Harry Norris
- Florida's marine cadastre – David Stage
- Maritime boundaries project – Meredith Westington
- State lateral boundaries – Meredith Westington
- Baseline committee update – Ole Varmer
- FGDC news – Milo Robinson
- Submerged Lands Conference – David Stein
- Other agency updates (FCC, MMS, NGA, USFWS) - Open

10:45 Coffee break

11:00 The multipurpose marine cadastre; implementation and strategy – Lee T.

12:00 Lunch

1:30 Submerged lands conservation ownership and leasing efforts – Josh Murphy

2:00 National Marine Fisheries Service marine boundary issues – Andy LoSchiavo

2:30 Handbook status and strategy for outreach – David Stein

3:00 Lee Thormahlen's retirement – Cindy Fowler

3:45 Action items and next meeting

4:00 Adjourn